

**What is Claimed is:**

1. A method of making an inlaid panel using a laser cutter, the method comprising the steps of:

a. providing an art master rendering that is desired to constitute a decorative design for the inlaid panel;

b. scanning electronically the art master to form an art master data file;

c. transferring the art master data file to a CAD software system to form an art master CAD file having machine code coordinates;

d. coordinating a laser beam to cut-through a first background panel and create negative image voids on the inlaid panel;

e. driving a CNC laser cutting machine in response to the machine code coordinates;

f. second coordinating a laser beam to cut through a second panel for forming positive images that become inlay elements;

g. bonding the first background panel and the second panel for forming a composite panel;

h. placing the inlay element in appropriate voided spaces on the background panel and bonded to the substrate;

i. finishing the composite panel; and

j. finishing the inlay elements.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein there is provided the further step of incorporating the finished composite panel with affixed inlay elements into an overall furniture or decorative object.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein, prior to performing said step of second coordinating there is further provided the step of re-adjusting the machine code coordinates.

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4. The method of claim 1, wherein, prior to performing said step of placing the inlay element  
there is further provided the step of bonding a backer panel to the composite panel.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein, prior to performing said step of placing the inlay element  
there is further provided the step of bonding an edger material to the composite panel.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein, prior to performing said step of placing the inlay element  
there is further provided the step of affixing a structural support to the composite panel.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein, prior to performing said step of placing the inlay element  
there is further provided the step of affixing a further decorative element to the composite panel.

8. A method of producing an inlay of one material in another material, the method comprising  
the steps of:

- a. electronically scanning an art master;
- b. first laser cutting a panel to create a voided image in the panel;
- c. second laser cutting to create an inlay image; and
- d. bonding the panel and the inlay image to a substrate to form an inlayed panel.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein prior to performing said step of electronically scanning there  
is provided the further step of forming the art master as a graphic design.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein during said step of electronically scanning there is provided  
the further step of converting the graphic design into machine code.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein said machine code has a CAD format.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein there is further provided the step of enabling the machine  
code in CAD format to drive a laser-cutting machine.

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13. The method of claim 12, wherein said step of enabling comprises the further step of cleaning  
2 the machine code in CAD format so that it can drive a laser-cutting machine.

14. The method of claim 11, wherein the machine code in CAD format controls a laser beam to  
4 cut a negative, voided image in a background panel.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the machine code in CAD format is cleaned-up and offsets  
6 are allowed to make the negative, voided image in the background panel.

16. The method of claim 14, wherein the negative, background panel is bonded to a substrate  
8 panel

17. The method of claim 11, wherein the machine code in CAD format controls a laser beam to  
10 cut a positive image in an relay panel.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the machine code in CAD format is cleaned-up and offsets  
12 are allowed to make the positive image in the relay panel.

19. The method of claim 8, wherein there is provided the further step of filling the voided image  
14 in the panel with a positive inlay image

20. The method of claim 19, wherein there is further provided the step of bonding the positive  
16 inlay image to a substrate.

21. The method of claim 8, wherein the background panel is made of wood, and there is provided  
18 the further step of staining the background panel without affecting the inlay element.

22. The method of claim 8, wherein the background panel is made of wood, and there is provided  
20 the further step of sealing the background panel without affecting the inlay element.

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23. A method of producing a decorative panel, the method comprising the steps of:

2 a. entering into a control computer graphical data corresponding to a plurality of laser cutting paths;

4 b. first laser cutting a panel in accordance with the graphical data;

6 c. second laser cutting a panel in accordance with the graphical data to produce a plurality of panel portions; and

d. attaching the plurality of panel portions to a substrate to form the decorative panel.

8 24. The method of claim 23, wherein prior to performing said step of attaching there is provided the step of finishing one of the plurality of panel portions.

10 25. The method of claim 23, wherein prior to performing said step of attaching there is provided the step of etching with a laser one of the plurality of panel portions.

12 26. The method of claim 23, wherein prior to performing said step of attaching there is provided the step of producing an inlay with a laser in one of the plurality of panel portions.

14 27. The method of claim 23, wherein said step of entering into a control computer graphical data corresponding to a plurality of laser cutting paths is performed on a CAD system to produce machine  
16 code for controlling a laser beam.